

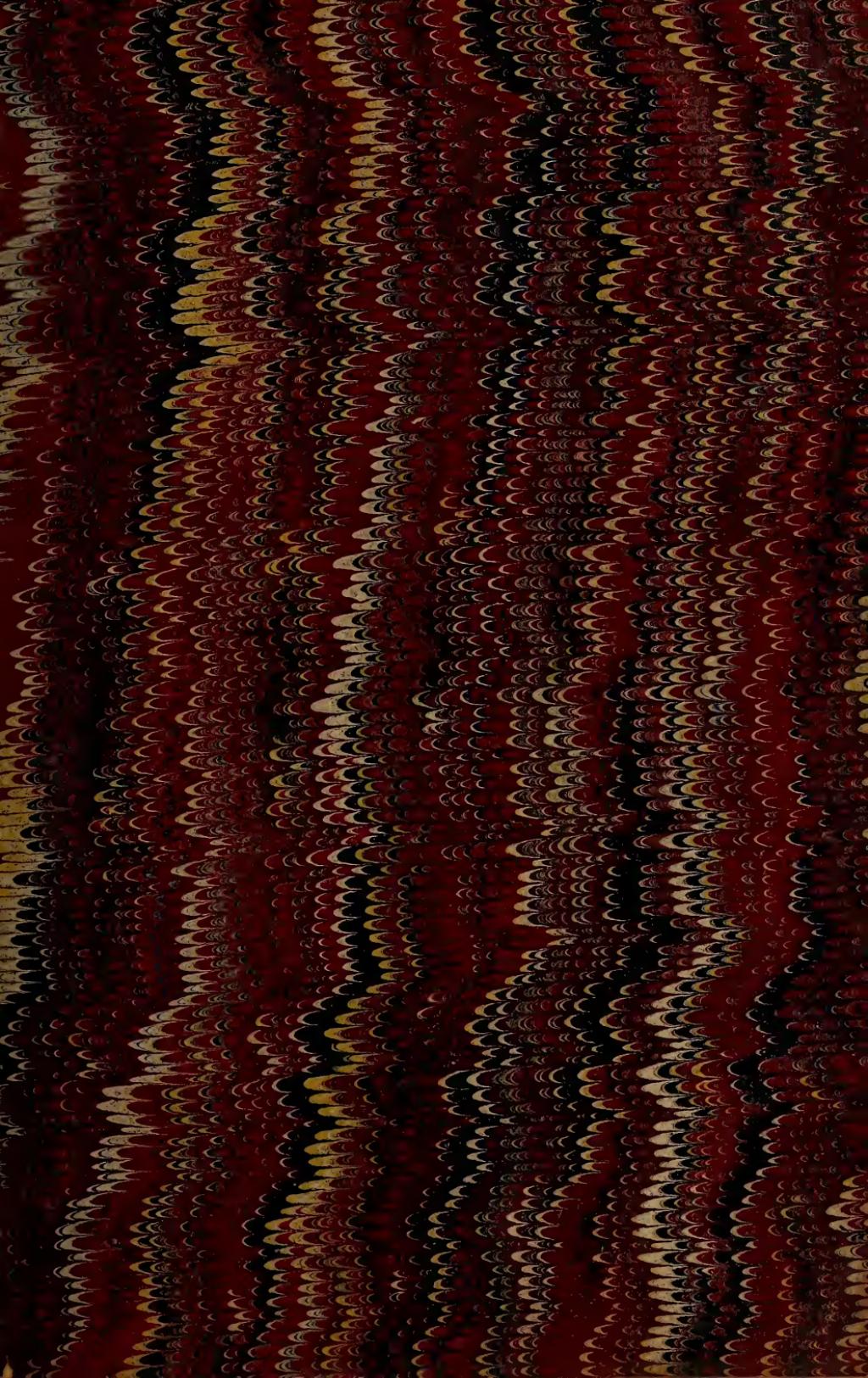
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HISTORICAL ADDRESS

TO THE

Graduating Class

OF 1868,

IN THE

Medical Department

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE.

BY

W. K. BOWLING, M.D.,

Prof. of Institutes and Practices of Medicine, and Dean of the Medical Faculty.

SECOND EDITION.

Nashville, Tenn.:

W. H. F. LIGON, PRINTER, MEDICAL JOURNAL OFFICE.

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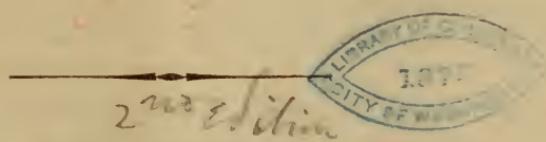
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A D D R E S S .

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRADUATING CLASS:—

It has become my duty by appointment to meet you publicly upon this the most important episode of your lives. The Faculty of Medicine in, and the Trustees of the University of Nashville, have agreed that you are entitled to, and of right, ought to have the degree of Doctor of Medicine conferred upon you; and the former in person and the latter by their head, or Chancellor, meet you here this evening that in the presence of the invited public the ceremonies shall transpire through which you are to pass into one of the three, so-called, learned professions. I do not intend in this presence to indulge in any labored eulogy upon the profession of your and my choice, nor to weary you with an enumeration of the responsibilities incurred by its adoption. Every vocation of life has clustered about it responsibilities peculiar to it, and my observation is that each pursuit tends to magnify all things connected with it. A good man will find in any of them exacting responsibilities, and the bad will shirk them alike in all.

Being graduates in medicine from the University of Nashville I think it not impertinent to the occasion to recall and group a few incidents in the history of the institution and the city whose name it adopted.

Carlisle in his *Frederic the Great* reveals to us a stalwart young man taking a farewell glance at his native hills to go forth and seek his fortune in the great world beyond. From this young man, after twenty generations of men had played out their play, descended the mighty hero---the same *Frederic*---who for

seven years fought all Europe and was in a paying condition at the end, and now, after two more generations, another descendant of that same young man has made Prussia and Germany almost convertible terms. How Jacob founded an Empire is familiar to all. Three generations ago the country round about us was a wilderness. In 1714 some French trappers, headed by their countryman Charlville, took possession of a deserted fort, constructed long before by Shawnee Indians, on this bluff. They were the first white men who ever stood on the banks of the Cumberland. Here they trapped and traded with the Indians without molestation, the intuitions of the Red man detecting no land hunting proclivities in *them*. They passed away forever before the approaching shadow of the land absorbing Anglo-Saxon.

In the spring of 1770 history reveals to us a stout, tall, young man of pleasant countenance and Scotch-Irish cast of features, with a few companions in the midst of a wilderness decyphering a record cut by a pocket knife in the smooth bark of a beech tree. It was a very straggling record and to the effect that, "D. Boon killed a bear on a tree, in the year 1760." The young man endeavoring to decypher these hieroglyphics was James Robertson in after years fondly alluded to as the Father of Tennessee. This brave, adventurous, high-souled Virginian was the physical type of a country which was afterwards in its physical attributes to be developed into a likeness of its founder and father. Providence works out its greatest ends with the simplest of means. Robertson was hunting for a home for himself, wife and child. Providence had sent him to make straight the way for millions. He was of lowly birth, poor and uneducated. He could not read. No ensigns armorial nor the gilded heraldic trappings of a noble ancestry were for one whose mission was to the forest home of the red man who loved the war-path and garlanded his wigwam with its horrible trophies.

In the spring of 1779 this great pioneer with one African and eight Caucasian followers, stood on the site occupied by this magnificent Temple and the shadow of the Anglo-Saxon was to abide here while the sun shone.

Five years after by act of the Legislature of North Carolina a town was established on this bluff to be called Nashville, and in 1785, the year after, James Robertson, representing in the Legislature of North Carolina a people living in stations and forts secured the passage of an act chartering Davidson Academy the nucleus of the University of Nashville, which the following year was organized under the superintendence of Rev. Thomas B. Craighead.

James Robertson had laid the mud-sills of his commonwealth and reared the superstructure out of material like himself, with reference to strength and durability rather than polish or ornamentation. The stationers were wonderful men for courage, endurance, energy and heroism, or they had not been here. Unlike older commonwealths, made up of those to the manor born, this was composed of those alone who voluntarily abandoned a higher state of civilization to push their fortunes in a new world, willing to wear away their lives in battling with appalling difficulties that their descendants might possess a bounteous land and thus gather about them the sure accompaniments of wealth, luxury and refinement.

The year Davidson Academy was organized a child was born in Morristown, New Jersey, destined to act an important part in connection with the far off institution of twin-birth with himself.

How different from each other were the two individuals destined to give form and pressure, body and mind to the new Commonwealth, and yet how wonderfully adapted was each to the work assigned him in the Providence of God ! He who was to build the body of the Commonwealth was endowed with wisdom, prudence, fortitude and heroism, each in an exalted degree ; but was void of those attractive graces which education and long association with the cultivated and refined alone can secure. He was the child of poverty and neglect or he had never been prepared for those enterprises and achievements which made him immortal. His exterior, while granite, had never felt the transforming edge of the implements of sculpture, and the mind that humanized it, while of great depth and reach and of imperial

texture, had no light but that of reason, which shone through nature up to nature's God! How different the portraiture of him who was to form the mind of the gentler descendants of those forest heroes. He belonged to the caste of Brahmins, which means, in New England, the descendants of educated generations and born to the inheritance of education, to which he so often eloquently alludes in after years as "the birthright of man." From the city enameled plains of New Jersey

"_____ his infant vision
First gazed upon the vaunted sky."

His father's quiet and hospitable home, at Basking Ridge, the elegant retreat of learned men in the season of leisure sent forth from its venerable shades three graduates from the College of New Jersey, one of the three great seats of learning in the United States. One of these was Phillip Lindsley, late President of the University of Nashville. To him providence seems to have entrusted the work of fashioning the minds and manners of the descendants of the pioneers planted by Robertson in the wilderness. One planted and the other watered. If the body was the handiwork of James Robertson the soul that gave it grace and excellence and power for good was breathed into it by Phillip Lindsley.

"There is a divinity that shapes our ends
Rough hew them as we may."

Besides possessing a brain of the finest texture, a result of educated brain transmitted through many generations, and, in turn, receiving a more elaborate polish than any in the line of ascent, profound wisdom was a conspicuous quality amid its endowments, resting as it always does, on its pedestal of prudence. That he was impelled by a necessity, of which he was intuitively conscious, of taking the seemingly unwise step of abandoning the brightest prospects with which fortune ever tempted ambition to consecrate his life and energies to building up in the back woods an institution of learning which he intended should rival in glory and usefulness the first in all the land, no mind religiously instructed, and with power to grasp and analyse the problem can

hesitate for a moment to yield its unqualified assent. To show this it is only necessary to glance rapidly at what he yielded at home and abroad to secure a life of toil here. When he was only thirty-one years of age he was twice chosen President of Transylvania University which he promptly declined.

Transylvania, at Lexington, then could afford advantages to which the institution at Nashville could not pretend. This was in 1817, when a medical school was already forming at Lexington, and which a few years after gave great *eclat* to the Transylvania University. But in this same year he became Vice-President of the great college of New Jersey, at Princeton. Five years afterwards, when only thirty-six years of age, he became its acting President, and in the following year he was chosen President of the College of New Jersey and of the University of Nashville, then Cumberland College, both of which appointments he declined. In 1824 the Presidency of Cumberland College being again tendered him he accepted it and removed with his family to Nashville. If his predilection was merely for a western home Transylvania offered advantages superior to Nashville, or the Ohio University at Athens, the presidency of which he also refused, could present inducements superior to either. But an invisible finger pointed him to Nashville which he was compelled to obey.

In 1786, the date of Dr. Phillip Lindsleys birth, the first meeting was held to organize a Board of Trustees for Davidson Academy. The Legislature of North Carolina in chartering the institution had endowed it with two hundred and forty acres of land, then worth little more than as many dollars, but being included within the Corporate limits of the city rose in value and kept the nucleus of our University from perishing in its babyhood. The actual seat of the institution was fixed at Spring Hill Meeting-House six miles from Nashville on the road leading to Gallatin where its first President, Rev. Thos. B. Craighead, taught the boys through the week at the rate of five pounds a year and preached to them and his neighbors on Sunday. The remains of the good man sleep near the spot of his labors. From 1776 to 1798 the institution lived

as best it could on the rents of land, taken in corn and sold by the trustees for what they could get, the lease of ferries and occasional sales of land.

In 1796 an act by some means passed the Legislature, introduced ten new trustees into the board, with power to appoint auditors, to whom the members of the old Board should account and with the further power to oust the old Trustees from office. Of course this new material was resisted and successfully by the old Board and is made worthy of recalling by almost an exact repetition in 1849 and with a similar result, the popularly denominated Jack-o-lantern Board being ousted summarily by act of the Supreme Court of the State.

In the year 1787, the year after the first meeting of the Board of Trustees, of the Academy, the town of Nashville consisted of twenty-six one acre lots, each lot valued at four pounds, North Carolina currency, and the tax assessed on the entire town was twenty-six dollars !

The year that closed the last century an opposition institution entitled "The Federal Seminary" sprang up, but after a feeble existence of a few months passed into nothingness. Its name in connection with the time is very suggestive.

In the beginning of this century the "Academy," though with a name, had no local habitation. It seems for the fourteen preceding years to have been a sort of myth, not recognized at the time as an entity and only now known by the record of its faithful Trustees—the strangest ever put on parchment or paper, consisting of accounts of meetings at this and that man's house, sometimes in town, sometimes in the country, and appointments of committees to rent out fields and ferries, sell rails or collect former rents in the products of the soil of which sale was to be made and funds appropriated by prescription. The county of Davidson, where the Academy was to have been located, could biding place have been found for it, was the very year the trustees first met divided into two counties, Davidson and Sumner, and when finally in 1802 it was determined that a house should be built, Sumner put in a claim for the honor of possession, but Davidson outbidding her competitor secured the des-

tinction and gave the name of the beautiful river that divided her territory to the institution, which thus became Cumberland College. It was ordered in 1804 that the Academy buildings should be forty-five feet wide and forty feet long, and the contract for its erection is concluded at a cost of \$10,890.

Rev. Thos. B. Craighead continued at the head of this school till October 1809, the last two years and three months as President of Cumberland College, when Dr. James Priestly was unanimously elected to that office, and was regularly installed as President on the 30th of January 1810, so that from the beginning until Priestly was twenty-four years and from Priestly to Lindsley fourteen years. A generation had been swallowed up in the great past since the organization of the school and yet it scarcely existed in name. The eye of fancy ever delights to linger in the misty past, which, reversing natural vision, finds the grandeur and magnificence of all within it range to increase with distance and the poet was revelling in the seductive realms of Fancy when he exclaimed :

“ ‘Tis distance lends enchantment to the view.”

Old men, lingering in imagination amid scenes of youth and early manhood find the glory of the past so enrapturing as to force them to declaim against the degenerate days in which their old age has fallen, forgetting that the past in which their souls are anchored made up the degenerate days of their fathers. Very old men here (and among them are those who were soldiers and in battle seventy-four years ago,) will tell you of the grand old days of our boasted University in the time of Craighead, while many more will descant upon the wonderful amount of learning young men absorbed at the feet of Priestly, and these men deserve all the praise that a grateful posterity can cluster about their memories. But sober history instructs us that it was not in the power of the Institution to accomplish much in those days and for any advantage to Dr. Phillip Lindsley when he commenced his work here in 1824 it might as well never existed. It was the spirit of this great genius. that originated a new

creation in the mind-world of the wilderness which from the banks of the Cumberland, as from a common center, was diffused throughout the great South-west stirring up men to newness of mental life, and which by the vehemence and grandeur of its action transformed so many into his own mental image as in part to defeat the grand object of his life which was to build up a University at Nashville that should equal any of the Old World and defy possible rivalry of the New. The fascinations of his genius and learning made life-long converts to his grand theory that "LEARNING WAS THE BIRTH-RIGHT OF MAN," and he thus originated a furor among his own disciples who founded Colleges as a means to the great consummation, so that by the end of his second decade at Nashville there were no less than nine colleges within fifty miles of his University, deviding its patronage and retarding its hoped for culmination. Nineteen hundred of his disciples, fired by the enthusiasm of their great master, had become the mental ferment of an empire, proclaiming through the length and breadth of the land that Education, thorough, and classical because thorough, was the birth-right of man! At the close of his twenty-third year at Nashville in a public address he says "when this College was revived and reorganized, at the close of 1824, there were no similar Institutions in actual operation within two hundred miles of Nashville. There were none in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Middle or West Tennessee. There are now some thirty or more within that distance, and nine within fifty miles of our city. These all claim to be our superiors and to be equal at least to Old Havard or Yale. Of course we cannot expect much "custom" or to command a large range of what is miscalled patronage. I have a list now before me of twenty Colleges or Universities in Tennessee alone. Several of those belong exclusively to individuals and are bought and sold in open market like any other species of private property. They are invested with the usual Corporate powers and may confer all University degrees at pleasure. This is probably a new thing under the sun: but Solomon's Geography did not extend to America."

His Biographer, Dr. Halsey, beautifully conceives and portrays the achievements of his subject. He has made mention of Dr. Lindsley's nineteen hundred pupils and says :

"The writer has had occasion to know something of these great south-western States—something of the men who have founded their institutions, and of the influences which have molded the character of their people during the last quarter of a century---and, without wishing to detract a jot or tittle from other eminent and useful laborers, he can bear witness that he has visited no point in all this vast region where the influence of Phillip Lindsley had not been felt and where some of his pupils were not found in the foremost rank of honorable men, bravely battling for the true and the good. Often, while weary himself of the heat and burden of the day, in some humble and distant corner of the field, has he felt his own heart cheered to renewed activity, as he has looked back to that unpretending college hillside at Nashville, and thought of the master-magician there---the very Arnold of our western colleges---who, quietly, unobserved by the world, and wielding a power greater than that of Prospero in the Tempest, was sending forth his influence to bless and save his country. What an illustration of the power of knowledge---of the way in which a good man may perpetuate his influence ! Many of these nineteen hundred pupils have become educators. Through them the head-master is still teaching---teaching in the colleges, universities, high schools, common schools, medical and law schools---teaching in the pulpit, the press, the courts of justice, the legislative halls---teaching at the firesides, in the counting-rooms, in the workshops, in the banking-houses of this great Mississippi Valley. The waves of popular and liberal education, thus created, as by a great central elevating force, are still rolling, and ever widening as they roll ! It was fortunate, it was providential, for the south-west, that such a force should be applied just *when* and *where* it was.

"But perhaps the most striking illustration of his influence as an educator is seen at Nashville itself---the scene of his longest labors---the home of his adoption---the resting-place where his ashes sleep. We have no citizenship at Nashville ; and hence

can not be accused of partiality in what we are about to say. But of all we have seen and known, we may safely say, there is no city west of the mountains which seems to us so justly entitled to be called the Athens of the West, as Nashville. And for that distinction we think there is no man to whom Nashville is so much indebted as Dr. Lindsley. If any man ever made his mark, deep and ineffaceable, upon a place and people, he made it at Nashville. We say this too with a full knowledge and appreciation of the eminent labors of his compeers and predecessors.

To appreciate this influence we have only to contrast Nashville as it now is with what it was when Dr. Lindsley became the President of Cumberland College---an interval of more than thirty years.

We had occasion to visit it for the first time in 1830, in the sixth year of his presidency, and recollect distinctly what it then was, as from an adjoining hill, and on an autumn morning, we saw its rocks, and cedars, and housetops, partially covered with the first fall of snow, and glittering like a mount of diamonds in the light of the rising sun. It was a compact little city of some five or six thousand souls, confined pretty much to a single hill or bluff on the left bank of the Cumberland. But it was beautiful even then---set like the gem in the green casket of the surrounding hill-country. It stood just at the outer apex of a long curve in the river, where, after sweeping westward, through a rich valley, and striking the elevated bluffs of stratified limestone rocks underlying the city, it flows gracefully and slowly away, in a long stretch to the North, as if its waters lingered to look upon a spot of so much beauty. It was precisely such a spot as the old classic Greeks and Roman would have chosen to build a city. It was ~~a~~ site of gently-rising and conterminous hills, almost as numerous and quite as elevated as the seven hills of Rome ; and each of their summits at that time wore the green crown of a dense cedar grove---while from the midst of the city, seemingly out of its very housetops, rose one central and higher hill, like Alp on Alp, overlooking all the scene, and not unworthy of the Athenian Acropolis. In that central cedar-

crowned hill the old Greeks would have imagined the *genii loci* to dwell. And if the traveler had chanced to visit the spot some fifty years earlier than we did, he might in lead have found there the real genius of the place---not some fabled Grecian goddess, but a wild Cherokee Indian. The *University* was then a single, plain, unpretending building, ninety feet long and three stories high, situated on what was called College Hill, to the south of the city, and commanding a fine view both of the city and the river. In the books of that day, the seat of all this natural beauty was described as a "Post-town, the capital of Davidson county, containing a court-house, a branch bank of the United States, the respectable private bank of Yeatman, Woods & Co., a valuable public library, a respectable female academy, and houses of public worship for Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists.

"Such was the capital of Tennessee thirty years ago. And what is it now? Now, 1859, it is a busy city of nearly thirty-two thousand souls, on both sides of the river, and spread out over all the hills and valleys for miles around. Now it has sixteen Protestant churches, three lines of railroad, a hundred steamboats, and an annual trade, including its manufactures of twenty-five millions. The long, rude box of a bridge, which once connected the banks of the river, has given place to two magnificent structures, one for railroad and the other for ordinary use---such as the Tiber never boasted, and which would have filled the old Romans with mingled wonder and delight. Those beautiful green cedars, once the glory of winter, have disappeared from all the hilltops, and in their place have sprung up the marble mansions of wealth, or the neat cottages of the artisan. That central summit, where in olden times dwelt the wild genii of the woods, is now surmounted with the capital of Tennessee ---the temple of law and justice, built of native marble, whose massive proportions, rising without an obstruction, and seen from every direction, as if projected against the very sky, would have done honor to the Athenian Acropolis in the proudest days of Pericles. And there too, looking from the broad terraces and steps of the capitol, the spectator beholds, across the city at the

distance of a mile to the south, that old and famous College Hill---once "so smooth, so green, so full of goodly prospects and melodious sounds," but now environed by a dense and busy population---where for twenty-six years, by day and night, went on the great work we have taken in hand to estimate---the work of training some two thousand immortal minds in all high and liberal learning. That hill is now set apart to the medical department of the university, with its spacious buildings, its costly museum, its laboratory, library, lecture-rooms, and four hundred students, gathered from all quarters of the South-west. But further on in the same Southern direction, and in the ample and elevated grounds which Dr. Lindsley had the wisdom to secure for such purposes at an early day, are now seen the still more costly and magnificent new buildings of the literary department, which have been erected since his resignation, through the energetic and untiring exertions of his son, the present Chancellor of the University.

"We had an opportunity, only a few years ago, of visiting Nashville, and while there of comparing her past and present condition. We examined somewhat closely into the influences which have been at work to make her what she is. In all we saw and heard, we were more and more impressed with the conviction that the prominent elements and agencies of her growth, and of her present elevated character as a city, were those which had originated on that same College Hill. We found that the "Old University," though for a season suspended, was in fact still governing the city. We found that most of the leading men, in all the learned professions, mercantile pursuits, and even mechanic trades, had, in one way or another, been connected with the university, and in a measure *educated* by it. We found that many of her most gifted alumni from other parts of the State, and even from other States, after rising to wealth and influence at home had worked their way back to Nashville, and were now contributing all the resources of their talents, their experience, their attainments, and their fortunes to the onward and upward growth of the city. We found that thus, congregating at Nashville, and throwing the whole weight of their

character, their public spirit, their enterprise, their love of education into all the intercourse of society, and all the walks of business, and the whole public administration of the city, they were not only making the capital of Tennessee an emporium of wealth and an Athens of learning, but sending forth an influence over all the surrounding region—nay, one that must be felt in every nook and corner of the State. We found that thus there was a great elevating moral power at Nashville---the power of letters---the power of education---the power of her own University. And when we saw all this---saw *how* the city had grown, and *why* it had grown, to its present enviable position of intellectual and moral power---we remembered some of those matchless appeals, and arguments, and vindications in favor of the higher learning as the nucleus of all that was great and good, which, for twenty-six years, Nashville had never failed to hear. The predictions were all fulfilled or fulfilling, though the eloquent tongue that spoke them was now silent. And we felt that, if Nashville should ever erect a public monument to any man, the honor was due to her eminent educator---PHILLIP LINDSLEY."

Ten years after the organization of Davidson Academy, a young Englishman named Bailey afterward the distinguished founder and President of the Royal Astronomical Society of London, in wandering through the wilds of Western America spent a few days at Nashville which he thus describes :

" We even met within three or four miles of the town two coaches fitted up in all the style of Philadelphia or New York, besides other carriages which plainly indicated that a sort of refinement and luxury had made its way into this settlement * * * * It was near seven o'clock when we reached Nashville. The sight of it gave us great pleasure after so long an absence from any compact society of this kind, we reviewed the several buildings with a degree of satisfaction and additional beauty which none can conceive but those who have undergone the same circumstances * * * * This town consists of about sixty or eighty families ; the houses (which are chiefly of logs or frame)

stand scattered over the whole site of the town, so that it appears larger than it actually is."

James Parton, in 1857, gives this description of our city :

" Pleasant Nashville ! Its situation is superb . A gently undulating, fertile valley, fifteen or twenty miles across, quite encircled by hills. Through this panoramic vale winds the ever-winding Cumberland, a somewhat swiftly-flowing stream about as wide as the Hudson at Albany. The banks are of that abrupt ascent which suggested the name of bluffs, high enough to lift the country above the reach of the marvelous rises of the river, but not so high as to render it too difficult of access. In the middle of this valley, half a mile from the banks of the stream, is a high, steep hill, the summit of which, just large enough for the purpose, would have been crowned with a castle if the river had been the Rhine instead of the Cumberland. Upon this hill stands the capitol of the State of Tennessee, the most elegant, correct, convenient and genuine public building in the United States, a conspicuous testimonial of the wealth, taste and liberality of the State.

" From the cupola of this edifice the stranger, delighted and surprised, looks down upon the city of Nashville, packed between the capitol-crowned hill and the coiling Cumberland, looks around upon the panoramic valley, dotted with villas and villages, smiling with fields, and fringed with distant, dark, forest-covered mountains. And there is one still living who was born in that valley when it was death from the rifle of a savage to go unattended to drink from a spring—an eighth of a mile from the settlement.

" Pleasant Nashville ! It was laid out in the good old English, southern manner. First, a spacious square for court-house and market, lined now with stores so solid and elegant that they would not look out of place in the business streets of New York, whose stores are palaces. From the sides and angles of this square, which is the broad back of a huge underground rock, run the principal streets—and there is your town.

" Pleasant Nashville ! The wealth of Nashville is of the

genuine, slowly-formed description, that does not take to itself wings and fly away just when it is wanted most. It came out of that fertile soil which seems to combine the good qualities of the prairie with the lasting strength of forest land. Those roomy square brick mansions are well-filled with furniture the opposite of gimcrack, and if the sideboards do not "groan" under the weight of the silver plate upon them, the fact is to be set down to the credit of the sideboards. Where but eighty years ago the warwhoop startled mothers putting their children to bed, the stranger, strolling abroad in the evening, pauses to listen to operatic arias, fresh from Italy, sung with much of the power and more than the taste of a *prima donna*. Within, mothers may be caught in the act of helping their daughters write Italian exercises, or hearing them recite French verbs. Society is lighted with gas, and sits dazzling in the glorious blaze of bituminous coal, and catches glimpses of itself in mirrors of full length portraiture.

But who founded the Medical Department of your wonderful University in a city so rare in all the attractive elements of beauty? Why, who else, young gentlemen, but the same great genius on "College Hill" who had consecrated his life with all the profound learning its well spent hours had brought him to the achievement of the grand purposes so eloquently described by Halsey and Parton, and hundreds of others. We may be instructed by a reference to the early workers in it as we are by the Acts of the Apostles, but the church was founded by one who while among them was not of them.

In his Baccalaureate address of 1729 he says :

"In casting my eye over the map of Tennessee, it struck me from the first that this was precisely the place destined by Providence for a great university, if ever such an institution were to exist in the State. And in this opinion I am fully confirmed by several years' observation and experience. I am entirely satisfied that it is physically impossible to maintain a *university* (I am not now speaking of an ordinary college,) in any other town in the State. And for this single good reason, were there no other, namely, a medical school, which may be regarded as an essential and as the most important part of a real university, can never be sustained except in a large town or city, and the larger the better. Nashville is the only place where a medical

school would even be thought of ; and physicians know full well that such is the fact."

At that day Memphis as a city did not exist. Who else ought to have founded any department of a university, born of his genius as was Minerva of the head of Jupiter, but he who spoke out thus to the world from his proud temple of learning ? He had no hopes from the church nor the state nor private munificence nor had those, and they so proclaimed, who were working under the guidance of his genius in organizing the Medical Department. He asks :

" Where then is the ground of our hope and encouragement ? It is in the growing strength and moral influence of our own enlightened, loyal, and patriotic sons, who issue, year after year, from our classic halls, imbued with the chivalrous spirit and republican virtue of the brightest age of Greek and Roman glory—and animated by the celestial principles of Christian magnanimity and benevolence—and whose voice shall yet be heard by a generous and honest, though hitherto much abused and misguided people. It is in these, under the propitious smiles and overruling providence of the Most High, that we place our confidence, and garner up our soul's fondest aspirations. They will never prove recreant or traitorous. The claims of *Alma Mater* upon their affections, their zeal, their labors, their influence, their talents, and their wealth, will ever be acknowledged as of paramount and everlasting obligation.

" We say—or rather let the University proudly say—there are our sons. We send them forth into the world. And by the world's spontaneous verdict upon their training and their bearing will we abide. We calmly and confidently await the world's decision ; and we feel assured of no mortifying disappointment. Our faith is strong, unwavering, invincible. And our purpose to persevere in the good work, which has thus far been signally prospered in the midst of every species of hinderance and discouragement, can not be shaken. The tongue which now speaks our high resolve, and bids defiance to scrutiny, to prejudice, to jealousy, to cowardice, to calamny, to malevolence, may be silent in the tomb long ere the glorious victory shall be achieved. But WE the UNIVERSITY, live forever ! And generations yet unborn shall rejoice in our triumphs, and pronounce the eulogium which our labors will have nobly won."

Never was there a greater outburst of philanthropy, never a more eloquent revelation of a fixed determination of purpose to wrest success from Fate itself in a cause which he felt com-

mended itself to whatever is good, noble and generous in man.

Upon another occasion in allusion to his great subject he says :

"Ignorance never did any good, and never will or can do any good. Ignorant men are good for nothing, except, so far as they are governed and directed by intelligent superiors. Hence it is the order of Providence, that in every well regulated community children and all grossly ignorant persons are held in subjection to age and wisdom and experience. No species or portion, even of humblest manual or mechanical labor, can be performed until the party be taught how to do it.

If it be said that the Deity has no need of human learning to propagate his religion, it may be replied that neither has he any need of human ignorance. He could, if he chose, dispense with human agency altogether."

He not only adumbrated the Medical Department of the University of Nashville but was a living actor in its organization and he lived to see and rejoice over its magnificent success. He wrote from his own brain the Latin Diploma that you will receive this evening and enjoyed at the time the reputation of being the first classical scholar on the continent. One of his sons upon presenting himself to the celebrated Prof. Chapman, of Philadelphia for examination for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine, Chapman, himself a scholar, took up the entire time allotted for the examination in asking the young candidate how his father pronounced this and that latin word, forgetting to say a word about medicine while the young man was in his room. We remember him so well as we saw him in 1850, standing on the stone steps of the "East wing," now the centre building of the Medical College. We had no previous acquaintance with him, but we had drunk in instruction from him during all the years he had labored to make the beautiful city stretched out before him without rival in all the land. We conversed freely with him about a Department of Medicine. He said the time had come—and there never was a move in the matter without his knowledge and concurrence. Others appear at the foot-lights, my unworthy self among them, but one back of the scenes was the arranger, constructor and founder. I will not say that he was pleased with the main features in the organization, he was

too good a University Man for that, and his plan was set aside and one almost its oposite finally secured.

On the 9th day of December, 1843, Jno. M. Bass, Esq., a member of the Board, resolved that a Committee of three be appointed to take into consideration the propriety of establishing a Medical School attached to the University. Messrs. R. C. Foster, Sr., Bass, and Ewin were appointed.

On the 8th of February, the following year, this Committee report "that the Board at once establish said Medical School." The Committee had opened a correspondence with and received suggestions and a memorial from J. M. Briggs, M. D., of Bowling Green, Kentucky, a distinguished physician and father of our present Professor of Obstetrics.

On the 17th of the same month President Phillip Lindsley submitted the following resolutions.

1st. That it is expedient to establish a medical school in connection with the University of Nashville.

2nd. That no portion of the funds of the University shall be appropriated to the aid or support of the said medical school, and that this Board will assume no pecuniary responsibilities whatever in its behalf.

3d. That qualification for degrees should be equal to those required by the most respectable medical schools in the United States.

4th. That no student shall be admitted to the degree of Doctor of Medicine under the age of twenty-one.

5th. That no person shall be admitted to the Degree of Doctor of Medicine, except Bachelors of Arts, or such as shall be found on examination to be adequately acquainted with classical literature and the liberal sciences. And that the said examination shall be conducted in the manner hereafter to be prescribed by this Board.

6th. That the entire supervision and control of the medical school in all respects and for all purposes, together with the power of discontinuing the same do rest in this Board, and shall be exercised agreeably to the charter and for the best interests of the University and of the Commonwealth.

Two days after this, a paper Faculty was made of which the world has heard nothing from that day to this.

In 1849 Charles Caldwell, M.D., long a distinguished medical teacher in Transylvania University and the conceded founder of the Medical Department of the University of Louisville, having had his chair destroyed at Louisville by the Trustees, in high dudgeon came down to Nashville to establish a rival of Louisville here. He got an audience, made a speech, a committee was appointed to raise funds which has not yet reported progress. The professor returned to Louisville and so little interest did the newspapers of the city take in the matter that the one I took, the Banner, had to be paid for mentioning the matter in its news column, as is evidenced by the notice having a star at the end of it.

In September 1850 the name of J. Berrien Lindsley was left on my office slate. I had never seen him. The next day he called while I was in. We had a long conversation upon medical men and medical schools. He was born and reared in a university with the lofty ideas of his distinguished father. We were both full of medical schools and rather anxious that a medical school should be partially full of us. By him I was introduced to kindred spirits. We had frequent meetings at my office. All were enthusiastic. The club consisted of Dr. J. Berrien Lindsley, Drs. A. H. Buchanan, Robert Porter, Charles K. Winston, Jno. M. Watson, and myself. The various members conceded to me a higher knowledge of medical men and medical matters than I deserved. By their unanimous solicitation I drew up the speech to the Trustees asking for such powers as astonished University men and which, if conceded, would reverse the President's grand idea of a medical school's utter dependence upon the parent institution, an indefinite babyhood or such, alas ! as is too often extinguished by the sacred but dark waters of the Ganges. Andrew Ewing read the speech to the Board and the powers were granted. I drew up the articles of confederation and elaborated a government. Each was acceptable to the club, and ratified by the Board, and the names mentioned above, as those of our medical club, the Board of Trustees of the University of Nashville organized into a Medical Faculty. None of them had any experience save as office teachers, but all had enthusiasm, energy and unfaltering determination of purpose. It seems but yesterday, yet one-half of them have passed away like a dream.

Before the course commenced, however, Dr. Paul F. Eve, long a journalist and lecturer, and who enjoyed a splendid reputation north and south of us as an eloquent and impassioned speaker, and an operating surgeon of unrivaled splendor, joined us, and this accession of unquestioned strength very naturally augmented our confidence in the enterprise. The success was unprecedented. From 1851 to 1861 we taught no less than 3787 young gentlemen, and of this number graduated 1105. From the beginning until now we have taught in this institution 4000 and graduated 1186.

In 1859 Dr. Halsey allows Nashville a population of thirty-two thousand. The late civil commotions that laid waste so many beautiful Southern cities left Nashville unscathed. A great centre of military operations millions of course were expended here amid surrounding desolation. The coolest of her citizens in the absence of accurate statistics compute her population at sixty thousand. No department of the University was injured, in its buildings, libraries, museums, or cabinets. Since the blessings of peace have again smiled upon our troubled land a new department has sprung up in the University, the Montgomery Bell Academy, upon a permanent foundation. It is now in successful operation with 60 students. Other schools or departments will soon be re-organized and there is no reason why we should despair of its reaching the glory and magnificence promised of it by him who so long and so triumphantly shaped her destiny.

And now, young gentlemen, full of the same hope and trust that filled the heart of the great and good Lindsley, I apply his words to you.

"We say—or rather let the university proudly say—there are our sons. We send them forth into the world. And by the world's spontaneous verdict upon their training and their bearing will we abide. We calmly and confidently await the world's decision; and we feel assured of no mortifying disappointment. Our faith is strong, unwavering, invincible. And our purpose to persevere in the good work, which has thus far been signally prospered in the midst of every species of hinderance and discouragement, can not be shaken. The tongue which now speaks our high resolve, and bids defiance to scrutiny, to prejudice, to jealousy, to cowardice, to calumny, to malevolence, may be silent in the tomb long ere the glorious victory shall be achieved. But WE, the UNIVERSITY, live forever! And generations yet unborn shall rejoice in our triumphs, and pronounce the eulogium which our labors will have nobly won."

POSTSCRIPT.

For those who are curious in tracing grand effects to the radical causes insignificantly minute this postscript as an addendum to the above address is given with it to the printer. It is made up in part out of a correspondence of the author with Dr. W. A. Cheatham, late Superintendent of the Tennessee Hospital for the Insane, and in part from a diary kept by Dr. J. Berrien Lindsley. Nothing is set down here except from the record.

[Extracts from correspondence of the author with Dr. W. A. Cheatham.]

("CONFIDENTIAL NO. 1.)

"AT HOME, March 5th, 1848.

DEAR DOCTOR:—I have determined upon a short series of letters to you with a view of unfolding the elements of an enterprise which have long occupied a prominent position in my cogitations. My reflections upon that subject are thoroughly digested and the conclusion to which they direct me *I know* to be sound.

* * * * * Thirty years ago a few physicians at Lexington determined upon a medical school. Dudley, a man possessing uncommon force of character, put the ball in motion and when every body *knew* it would fail it succeeded without the slightest difficulty. The *first* school in a place, wherever instituted *has succeeded*. * * * * *

When medical schools have failed they have invariably been *new schools*, reared up in open opposition to an existing one in the same place. * * * * In the whole history of medicine in the South and West there never was so favorable a period to insure the success of one as now at the proper point.

* * * Louisville ruined Lexington because it became, in a professional sense, a ligature upon her artery of nutrition. The students of the *South* touched Louisville first and were booked *A school South of Louisville will cut off her supplies in like manner.*"

In other letters of this series, still in the possession of Dr. Cheatham, the plan of a medical school is farther elaborated. In the plan two leading ideas are kept prominent.

1st. The faculty must be chiefly of Nashville physicians. Home influence of every importance, for even talent, genius, and learning in medicine can not make head against local and partisan opposition.

2nd. The school must be an *attaché* of the University to secure ~~the influence of its name at home and that of its~~ *elver* abroad.

The author who was then residing in Logan county, Kentucky, requested his friend Dr. Cheatham to show these letters to prominent Nashville physicians and collect their opinions. He did so, but all seemed to regard the scheme utopian, and in the beginning of 1850, the author removed to Nashville determined, if he could find a few Nashville physicians to aid him, to test the feasibility of his scheme, even if it should wreck his private fortune.

[From Dr. Lindsley's Diary.]

"1849, Oct. 22—Monday—Called on Dr. Caldwell.

" 26—Heard Dr. Caldwell deliver an introductory on Medical Jurisprudence."

During Dr. Caldwell's visit to Nashville, he attempted to form a Medical Faculty and establish a school in Nashville. In this scheme Drs. Winston and Buchanan were active men. They applied to J. Berrien Lindsley to take the chair of Chemistry. Nothing resulted from this effort. Dr. Lindsley spent the ensuing winter in visiting the medical schools of Louisville, New York, etc. On his return in the spring, he had free consultations with Dr. Chas. K. Winston, concerning a plan of a medical school as an integral part of the University. Dr. Winston fully seconded the plan.

"Aug. 30, 1850—Opened my medical *project* to R. J. Meigs. [One of the Trustees of the University of Nashville.] Pretty busy at it after this.

" Sept. 2d—Called on D. W. Yandell.

" 19—Called on Dr. Bowling, Dr. Winston.

" 20—Dr. Bowling.

" 21—Doctors.

" 23—Dr. Bowling.

" 24—Dr. Bowling.

" 25—Drs. Bowling, Porter, etc. Evening—Three hours doctors' meeting.

" 26—Evening—Doctors' Meeting.

" 27—Dr. Bowling. Evening—Dr. Bowling and Mr. Meigs.

" 28—Dr. Bowling."

These extracts from Dr. Lindsley's diary show how the "medical club," spoken of in the address, originated and developed. This club thus formed, with the addition of names mentioned in the address, by the power vested in the Trustees of the University of Nashville, was converted into their Medical Faculty.

The following is the speech of the author read to the Trustees by the Hon. E. H. Ewing :

To the Trustees of the Nashville University :—

We have no hesitation in believing that the popular voice here is in favor of a Medical School. Many attempts have heretofore been made in vain to meet the expectations of the public upon the subject. The great difficulty in the way of this enterprise, as is shown by its history running through a period of fifteen years, has been *means* to put it in successful operation. We propose to supply this desideratum from our private resources, and to chance the result for reimbursement. We ask of you, Gentlemen, only a recognition and the *loan* of your College buildings for the period of twenty years. We wish to have the sole management of the Department ourselves :

1st. Because experience and the history of similar institutions show that this power is safest with those most deeply interested ; and

Secondly. Because this will be an enterprise in which we will have invested no inconsiderable amount of money, and would, on that account, desire to be untrammelled in the management of it.

We herewith exhibit the constitution which, in the event of our recognition, is to regulate the internal affairs of the department, and which will more clearly illustrate our plan of a Medical College.

We ask if our proposition be favorably received, such action on your part as will insure us against molestation by your successors, in the possession of the buildings and the professorships which you will confer upon us.

The history of the Medical Colleges in America is but the history of broils and difficulties. Most of these we are firmly persuaded are legitimately referable to the fact that in nearly all of them the tenure of the professorship is exclusively dependent on the caprice of the Trustees in the first place, and in the second to the fact, that the professor has no pecuniary interest separate and apart from his *fees* in the Institution. In this organization the professors are stimulated to exertion by the length of their lease, and by the great sweetener of labor—the hope of reward. They

will feel that the fruition for which they so zealously toil will not be stricken untasted from the lips and conferred by capricious task-masters on new favorites, and that the adage "one shall sow and another reap" shall not be the bitter end of their labors. They will have *money* invested in the enterprise, and that prudence incident to the ordinary affairs of man, will suggest the energy necessary to make the investment profitable. Some of them have grown grey in the toils of the profession which they now propose to teach, and whatever of reputation has accrued to them from a life of labor and self-denial they also invest in this enterprise. Others, younger, bind the bright hopes of a sunny future firmly to the destinies of this effort.

We prefer no claims superior to those of our co-laborers in an arduous and responsible profession. We propose to do what we believe ought to be done, and what public sentiment demands, to *establish* a Medical College in Nashville. We contend that it is the sublimity of human folly for medical men to sit idly prating about the necessity of elevating the standard of medical literature, and that the multiplication of Medical Colleges tends to depress it, when daily observation demonstrates that precisely in proportion as regularly educated medical gentlemen decline the labor of teaching, and of thus multiplying regular physicians, audacious empiricism organizes hot beds for generating its swaggering offspring.

Nashville, the great political and mercantile emporium of the State, has contented itself with a Medical College on paper for fifteen years, during which long period it has not added a single member to the regular profession, and the result of this medical paralysis is that two empirical colleges in the State are now in successful operation.* This is elevating the standard of medicine with a vengeance. It is infinitely more sensible for qualified medical men to struggle energetically to supply the demands of the public for physicians than by "masterly inactivity" to permit empiricism to do it for them. The people everywhere manifest a decided preference for regular physicians, if they can procure them, and whenever, and not before, the

* There are none now (1863).

supply equals the demand empiricism perishes. The number of Medical Colleges *cannot* be limited by the power of Trustees of Universities in a Republic. There is a higher resort which has always been found available—the State Legislature—and Medical Colleges will be multiplied by statutory provision, irrespective of the wishes or the peculiar views of Trustees of Universities, and a large majority of Medical Colleges in the United States at this hour exist on that basis. The argument therefore that Universities ought not to multiply medical departments because there are already enough for a healthy condition of medical science utterly fails, inasmuch as a constant successful demand upon Legislatures for additional Charters demonstrates that in the estimation of the people there are not enough ; and when the people and the doctors are at issue, it does not require the wisdom of a Solomon to foresee which party will triumph.

Is it contended that there is not medical talent enough in this the metropolis of a great State to teach the healing art? We reply it is to just such talent that the health and lives of the chivalrous people of Tennessee are entrusted.

Is it contended that greater advantages can be secured to the medical student in the great tramontane institutions ? We reply that they will remain open to such as have means or inclination to patronise them.

All we ask is the privilege of teaching such as are willing to be taught at home, and by *us*, and we have no fears of the result.

We ask of the University *extraordinary powers* : the entire control of our own department for a term of years. We render to the University in return *extraordinary advantages* : making ourselves liable to heavy expenses for the sake of starting this department, when it is quite uncertain whether our success will pay for our venture. For the time being we serve as active interested *agents* of the University in procuring funds to erect additional buildings needed by the department, and in getting up a medical library and museum, *all of which* will be the absolute property of the University when this agreement ceases.

We respectfully solicit your early action in this matter, with the assurance that whatever that action may be, we shall con-

tinue to maintain the conviction of your wise, prudent and patriotic intentions

JNO. M. WATSON, M. D.,
W. K. BOWLING, M. D.,
ROBERT M. PORTER, M.D.,

A. H. BUCHANAN, M. D.,
CHARLES K. WINSTON, M. D.,
J. BERRIEN LINDSLEY, M. D.

Nashville, Sep. 28th, 1850.

Immediately after the reading a Committee composed of Dr. Felix Robertson, Messrs. Washington, Williams, Bass and Meigs was appointed to confer with the above medical gentlemen freely and fully and report at the next meeting of the Board. Accordingly at the next meeting the Committee report that "the Committee to whom was referred the proposition for the establishment of a Medical Department of the University of Nashville, as contained in the plan and memorial submitted to this Board by Messrs. W. K. Bowling, Robert M. Porter, Charles K. Winston, John M. Watson, John B. Lindsley, and A. H. Buchanan, beg leave to report that the plan on which said Department is proposed to be organized and conducted and the known character and ability of those who propose to embark in the enterprise give to the public and this Board the strongest hope of success and that it is the duty of the Board to give to said Department the use of what is called the new College building, etc., * * * * for the term of twenty-two years as proposed in said memorial and that a Committee be appointed on the part of this Board to prepare articles of agreement, to be executed by the proper officers of this Board on our part, setting forth terms on which the grant or lease is proposed to be made and said Department established.

Signed,

FELIX ROBERTSON,
THOS. WASHINGTON,
WILL. WILLIAMS,
R. J. MEIGS,
JNO. M. BASS.

Oct. 11th, 1850.

Agreeably to this Report it was "on motion of Jno. M. Bass,

Resolved, That a Medical Department be established in connection with the University, * * * * and that a Committee be appointed to draw the articles of agreement between the University and the professors in the Medical Department thus created, etc. Messrs. Ewing, Meigs and Bass were appointed on said Committee.

The Board then proceeded to an election of Professors in the Medical Department in the University of Nashville, when the following Gentlemen were unanimously elected to fill the Chairs, viz :

- Jno. M. Watson, M.D.,
Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.
- A. H. Buchanan, M.D.,
Surgery.
- W. K. Bowling, M.D.,
Institutes and Practice of Medicine.
- C. K. Winston, M.D.,
Materia Medica and Pharmacy.
- Robt. M. Porter, M.D.,
Anatomy and Physiology.
- J. Berrien Lindsley, M D.,
Chemistry and Pharmacy."

At the next meeting, Friday Oct. 18, 1850, "on motion it was was resolved that the Committee appointed at the last meeting viz. : Messrs. Ewing, Meigs and Bass be authorized to conclude a contract with the professors of the Medical Department of the University of Nashville and that any agreement which they in their discretion might enter into with said professors should be binding on this Board."

The indenture between the University and the Professors in the newly created Medical Department signed by the Committee of the Board of Trustees, Ewing, Meigs and Bass, on the part of the University and by the newly created Professors on the part of the Medical Department, says that the latter "shall peaceably and quietly have hold and occupy, possess and enjoy the said piece or parcel of ground and premises hereby devised with all its appurtenances for, and during the said term of

twenty-two years, hereby granted without any lawful let, trouble, denial or interruption of or by the said University of Nashville, or any person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim by from or under the same." To the aforesaid professors is furthermore granted the power "in case of vacancies in any of said professorships to nominate successors *and the right and power of changing, abolishing or vacating professorships* and right and power of conducting all the affairs of the Department *as fully as the Trustees themselves*, free from interference of said Trustees during the term aforesaid."

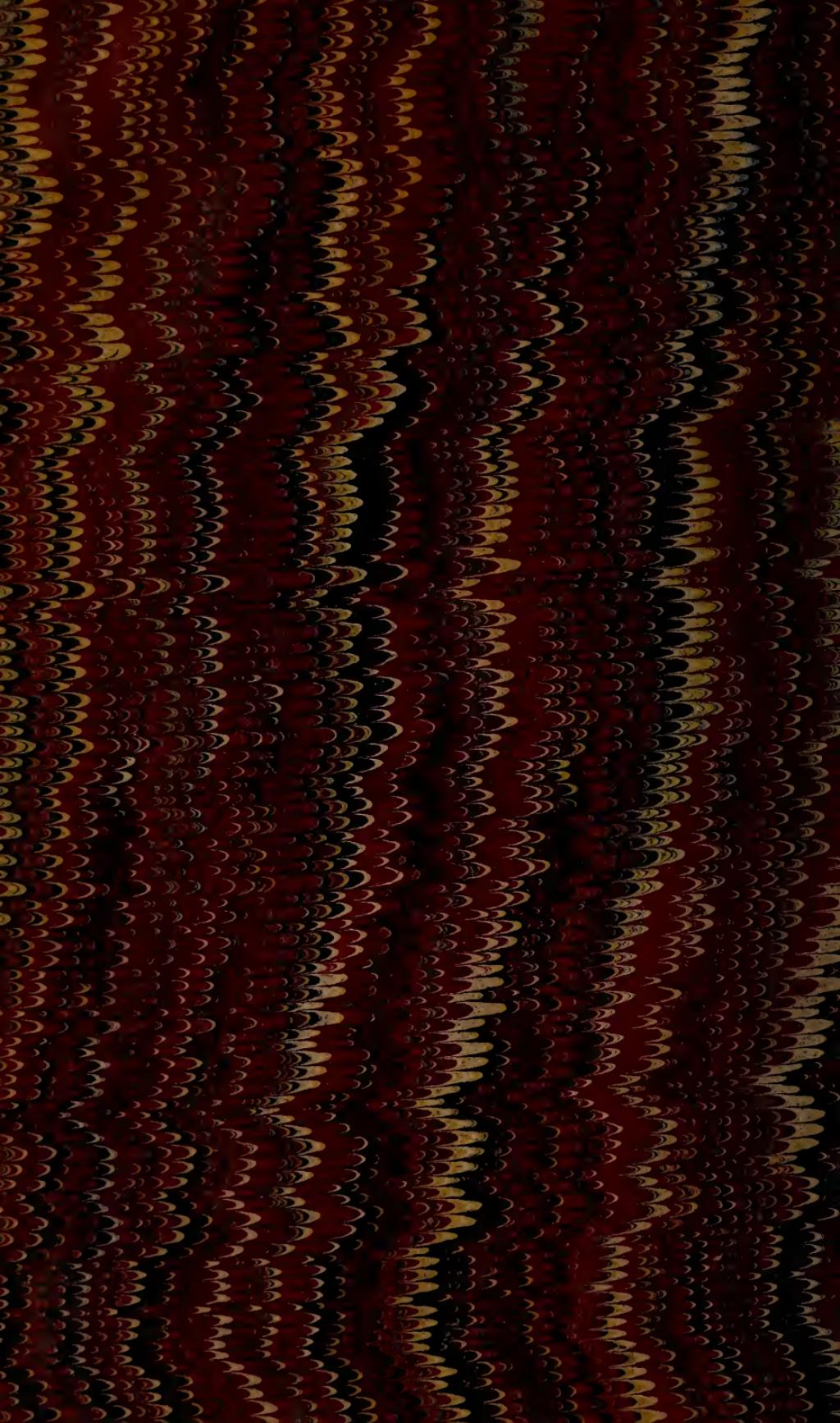
The government adopted for the College was extremely simple. There were to be two officers, each to be elected annually, viz.: a President of the Faculty to call meetings, and preside at them, and a Dean upon whom devolved the duty of managing the entire machinery at home and of representing the Institution abroad. He appoints Janitors and all operatives and is the sole custodian of the building and its contents. The Institution has never had a Treasurer, the Dean managing the public funds. When the graduating fees, matriculating fees, and other resources of the Dean were insufficient to pay the expenses of the College the balance was provided for by pro rata assessments upon each professor. In early years, while furnishing the museum, these assessments were often very heavy but in those years were cheerfully met. From time to time attempts have been made to increase the number of officers but always failed. Prof. Winston has held the office of President of the Faculty from the beginning. Prof. Lindsley held the office of Dean the first six years when he resigned. Prof. Eve then held it two years and the author has held it ten years and though re-elected unanimously on the 30th of October last resigned, for his resignation to take effect on the 1st of April next. Prof. Lindsley was elected to the Deanship for the year after the 1st day of April, 1868.

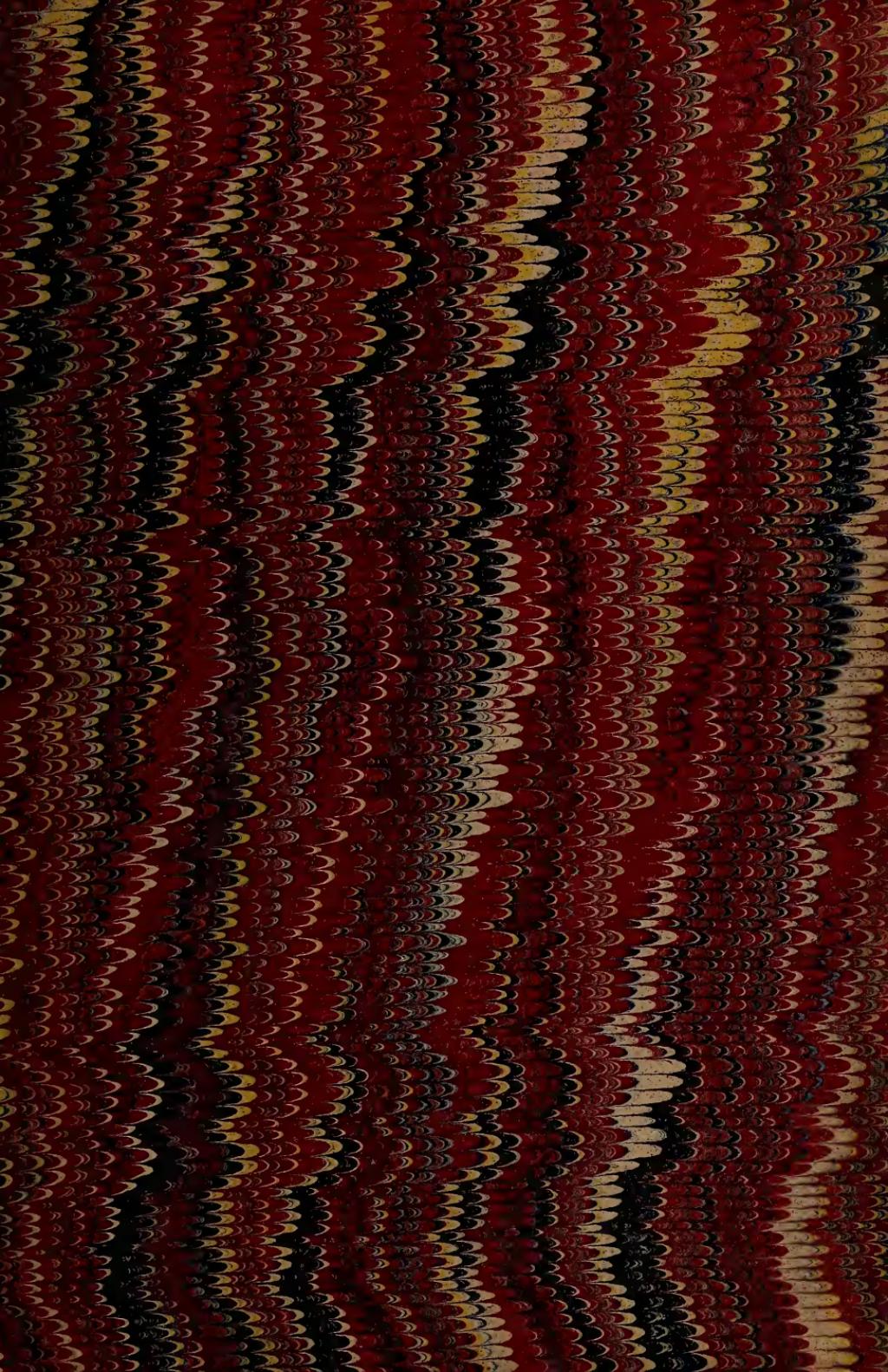
The eminently just and conservative rule was adopted that a majority of the professors should rule, but should have no power, to make the fees of different chairs unequal. A majority could ~~assess~~ each professor to any amount. The professor's remedy

was resignation if he did not like the assessment, and if he did not pay his assessment within ninety days after it was agreed on by a majority of the Faculty and recorded by the Dean *that fact* was to be taken as his resignation without farther action of the Faculty. In prosperous times these rules would be, and were regarded as just and proper, but when assessments, however necessary, swallowed up fees almost to the last dollar, the more stringently organized could see no beauty in assessments, and would defy majorities.

A government so simple and so just ought to commend itself to all. It secured perfect harmony here for sixteen years out of the seventeen, during which the Institution has existed. We have never been in sympathy with those who believe that a class of men outside the pale of medicine can govern medical matters better than medical men themselves can. We objected therefore to Dr. Philip Lindsley's plan which gave the medical teachers no power. We never could understand the sense or propriety of saying to a medical student who had passed a satisfactory examination before judges of his qualifications, (his professors,) that if it were the pleasure of those who were no judges at all of his qualifications, (the Trustees,) he should have the degree conferred upon him. 'That is he should be a doctor if those who knew nothing about it should say so.

M.





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